

REMARKS

Claims 47-50, 57-60, 62, 67-70, and 77-80 remain pending in this application, of which Claims 47, 57, 62, 67, and 77 are in independent form. Claims 41-46, 51-56, 61, 63-66, and 71-76 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claims 47-50, 57-60, 62, 67-70, and 77-80.

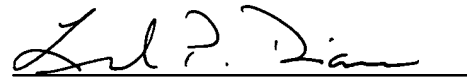
The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 41-46, 51-56, 61, 63-66, and 71-76 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,704,118 (Hull et al.). Claims 41-46, 51-56, 61, 63-66, and 71-76 have all been canceled, and the remaining claims have been allowed as noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims having been allowed, Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

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